



U.S. Department of Justice

Anthony J. Jenkins
United States Attorney
District of the Virgin Islands

Main Office: Ron de Lugo Federal Building and United States Courthouse (340) 774-5757
5500 Veterans Drive, Room 260
Charlotte Amalie
St. Thomas, VI 00802-6424

Branch: 1108 King Street, Suite 201 (340) 773-3920
Christiansted, St. Croix, VI 00820-4951

www.usdoj.gov/usao/vi

August 19, 2005

FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

**CRUISE SHIP EMPLOYEE SENTENCED TO 21 MONTHS IMPRISONMENT
FOR OPERATING AN UNLICENSED MONEY TRANSMITTING BUSINESS**

United States Attorney Anthony J. Jenkins announced today that Chief Judge Raymond Finch sentenced Chuchi Kue, 43, of Malate, Philippines, on August 18, 2005 to 21 months incarceration and 3 years supervised release, for operating an unlicensed money transmitting business while working on the Dawn Princess Cruise Ship. Ms. Kue had previously pled guilty to the offense. Title 18, United States Code, Section 1960 makes it a federal criminal offense for any person to operate such a business without a license. During the sentencing hearing, Chief Judge Finch stressed that the security of the United States is directly dependent upon the government's ability to trace financial transactions which occur both internally and internationally.

The government presented evidence that between January 2000 and December 9, 2004, Ms. Kue conspired to illegally operate an unlicensed money transmitting business by collecting money from her fellow employees working on various cruise ships. Working with others, she later transmitted these funds through foreign commerce to the Philippines. She used banks, and money remitting services, to transmit her customers' money to the Philippines when the cruise ships she worked on docked in

Alaska and in St. Thomas. During the approximate twelve-month period between January 1, 2004 and December 9, 2004, the conspiracy transmitted approximately \$ 160,000.00 from these locations to the Philippines.

United States Attorney Anthony J. Jenkins praised the cooperative efforts of the Dawn Princess personnel, the St. Thomas office of United States Immigrations and Customs Enforcement and the St. Thomas Office of United States Customs and Border Protection. According to United States Attorney Jenkins, this case would have been impossible to make without the professionalism and devotion to duty exhibited by each agency.